

Ghali, Aziz to discuss Iraqi oil sales

GENEVA (Agencies) — United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Ghali and Iraq Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz will meet in Geneva Wednesday to discuss lifting U.N. sanctions against Baghdad. U.N. officials said Tuesday if Baghdad and the United Nations reach agreement, Iraq could return under tight controls to the already-saturated world market after an absence of three years. Thérèse Gastaut, chief spokesman of the U.N. European headquarters, said the two men would meet Wednesday afternoon, but she declined to reveal details. Dr. Boutros Ghali is eager to get them selling oil because they need the money as another source of U.N. funding," said a U.N. source who asked not to be identified. Talks opened in New York Tuesday between Iraq and U.N. officials on a plan for long-term monitoring of Baghdad's arms programme. The talks scheduled to continue through Sept. 9 are in response to what sources here said was an agreement in principle reached in Baghdad in July with Rolf Ekroos, the head of a panel supervising Iraqi disarmament.

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Husseini:
No deal
without
Jerusalem
Combined agency dispatches

PARIS — The head of Palestinian negotiations at Arab-Israeli talks has said Israel must drop its refusal to discuss the status of Jerusalem if it wants a peace agreement.

Faisal Al Husseini said in an interview published in the French daily Liberation Tuesday that Jerusalem remained the main stumbling block in the peace talks.

"I cannot accept that there will be no talks on the future of Jerusalem for two years," he said. "We must discuss now, secretly and publicly."

The interview reflected continuing uncertainty and differences over the fate of Arab Jerusalem, occupied by Israel in 1967, in an historic draft agreement providing for Israeli withdrawal from Jericho and Gaza Strip.

Yasser Arafat, head of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) information department, has said the PLO and Israel would make "certain arrangements" to cover Jerusalem during the interim period and negotiations over the city's final status would begin two years after the agreement was signed.

Israel has said in the past Jerusalem would retain its "capital" and could not be negotiated. It has yet to clarify whether the Gaza-Jericho option dealt with the Holy City.

Mr. Husseini said an agreement on Gaza and Jericho would be a first step towards a settlement but Palestinians insisted on Israel's withdrawal from all occupied territories.

"If Israelis do not change their attitude, do not end the isolation, the encirclement of the Holy City, then you will not find anyone to sign an accord, including on Gaza and Jericho."

Mr. Husseini called Jerusalem the Palestinians' bottom line and said Gaza residents would never accept an agreement leaving aside the fate of Jerusalem.

"If anyone believes we Palestinians can do without east Jerusalem, he is completely mistaken. Previous and bilateral talks have dealt with Jerusalem and Israelis know our position fully well. It is the stumbling block in the talks," he said.

In other developments:

Arafat's return

Israel could agree to the return of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat to the occupied territories following the Palestinian autonomy agreement, Israeli Deputy Defence Minister Motta Gur said.

"It is possible that Israel will agree to the return (of Arafat) on condition that it is presented as an individual case," Mr. Gur said in a radio interview.

Such a case should not be seen as Israel agreeing to the principle of the "right of return" for Palestinian refugees, Mr. Gur underlined.

Mr. Arafat left the West Bank in 1967 when Israel seized the territory.

Rabinstein boycotts talks

The head of Israel's negotiating team with the Palestinians said he was boycotting the Middle East peace talks which opened Tuesday in Washington in protest at the autonomy accord.

Eitan Rabinstein told Israeli radio he would not travel to Washington because he opposed the accord.

Moss to Israel

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa will fly to Israel Wednesday to discuss the agreement between Israel and the PLO, Egyptian foreign ministry sources said.

Mr. Musa attended a two-and-a-half-hour meeting on Tuesday between Mr. Arafat and Egyptian Foreign Minister Ibrahim.

No formal details on Mr. Musa's trip were immediately available.

Israeli document sees Jordan-W. Bank link

Combined agency dispatches

WASHINGTON — Arabs and Israelis resumed Middle East peace talks in Washington Tuesday and one of the chief Israeli negotiators predicted a historic agreement on Palestinian autonomy would be signed within two weeks.

An official of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said the text of a declaration of principles was ready for signing but still needed formal PLO approval.

Israel's government foresees an eventual federation linking Jordan with a Palestinian-ruled West Bank and Gaza Strip, the Israeli embassy in Paris said.

The embassy said in a French-language statement summarising Israel's proposal for Palestinian self-rule that Israel remained opposed to the creation of an independent Palestinian state and would keep control of Jerusalem.

The statement said: "For a permanent solution, the Israeli government foresees a confederal or federal arrangement between Jordan and the territories of the West Bank and Gaza, from which Israel would withdraw."

It said: "Israel remains opposed to the creation of an independent Palestinian state."

The Palestinians were aware that Israel "will make no compromise on the status of Jerusalem as the undivided capital of Israel under Israeli sovereignty," it said.

"While it is clear the Palestinians will raise the issue of Jerusalem during the negotiations on a permanent status, it should be clearly clear that Israel will under no circumstances change its position on this question of principle," the statement said.

See page 4 for full text of proposed "declaration of principles"

"We have a deal that should make the two sides happy and that I think goes way beyond a typical interim agreement," Dr. Shalit added. "The agreement is all-encompassing. It sets the agenda for the final settlement."

Mr. Rabinovich said he hoped for progress in Israel's demand for peace with Syria, but added: "To be realistic I don't think an agreement can be reached between Israel and Syria that soon."

Palestinian negotiators arriving here Monday said word of the Gaza-Jericho agreement caught them by complete surprise when it started leaking out over the weekend.

"For 22 months we were the

appetizers," said the deputy leader of the Palestinian delegation, Saeb Erakat, who was being briefed on details of the pact Monday night. "Now it's time for the main course," said Dr. Erakat, a resident of Jericho.

In Washington the head of the Israeli delegation negotiating with the Syrians, Itamar Rabinovich, said in Washington that a signing ceremony for the autonomy agreement would take place within two weeks. "It will take a couple of days to crystallise," he said.

But Nabil Shaath of the PLO said no more work on the text was needed. "Everything is finished," he said.

"Of course it requires the approval of the (PLO) Executive Committee, as it did of the cabinet of Israel," he added.

The Israeli cabinet approved the agreement on Monday night.

raq Alaf expressed hope that progress with the Palestinians would have positive effects on other talks. Mr. Rabinovich said the pact could spur progress towards a Syrian-Israeli agreement.

To prepare for the formal talks, members of the Israeli, Palestinian, Syrian, Jordanian and Lebanese delegations on Monday called on Dennis Ross, an aide to Secretary of State Warren Christopher, and other U.S. officials.

At Monday's meeting with Arab delegates, U.S. officials discussed some of the stickier details, such as Israel's insistence that it retain jurisdiction and control over the estimated 3,300 Jewish settlers in Gaza and Jericho.

Under the PLO-Israeli plan, Israeli forces would be removed from Palestinian population centres in Gaza and Jericho but still

be deployed in areas inhabited by the settlers, according to diplomats familiar with the document.

The Israeli military also would retain control over the border crossings between Gaza and Egypt and between the Jenin area and Jordan.

Asked if a "declaration of principles," on Syrian-Israeli peace could be reached during the current round, Mr. Rabinovich told reporters:

"Within this round, that probably would be overstated, but our Syrian counterparts spoke of trying to achieve it during this round or next, which I think makes it more realistic."

Chief Syrian negotiator Moussa

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Earlier, Israeli foreign Minister Shimon Peres told CBS television in Israel that once the PLO renounces "terrorism" and the goal of destroying Israel, "it could become a regular political party and we would gladly talk with them."

"We are right now in a very dynamic stage, and things are really running ahead full force and it may happen quite soon, there will be some new hurdles on the road," he said.

Outside the State Department, 30 demonstrators of the late militant Rabbi Meir Kahane shouted slogans against Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin for successfully working out a pact with the PLO.

"Rabin is a traitor," "not an inch of eretz (greater) Israel," "Peace now, war later," chanted the protesters.

An Israeli newspaper poll published Tuesday showed 74 per cent of Palestinians in the occupied territories back the agreement with Israel on self-rule.

The Dafah telephone poll of 504 Palestinians for the Yedioth Ahronoth newspaper showed 24 per cent opposed the agreement while two per cent had no opinion.

The poll, the first survey by Dafah of Palestinians in the occupied territories, had a margin of error of four per cent.

His Majesty King Hussein with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad in Damascus on Tuesday (Petra photo)

King, Assad discuss Arab coordination in peace talks

Jordan, Syria 'surprised' by Israel-PLO deal; Lebanon says self-rule plan is flawed

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter and agency dispatches

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday paid a working visit to Syria where he held talks with President Hafez Al Assad on the latest developments in the Middle East peace process, and Arab coordination in the 22-month-old Arab-Israeli peace talks.

The Dafah telephone poll of 504 Palestinians for the Yedioth Ahronoth newspaper showed 24 per cent opposed the agreement while two per cent had no opinion.

The poll, the first survey by Dafah of Palestinians in the occupied territories, had a margin of error of four per cent.

His Majesty King Hussein with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad in Damascus on Tuesday (Petra photo)

Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel on limited Palestinian autonomy in the occupied territories.

Syrian presidential spokesman Jibril Kuriyah confirmed that the Israel-PLO accord was discussed by the King and President Assad.

The two leaders "stressed the importance of Arab coordination in ensuring a just, durable and comprehensive peace" in the Middle East.

It did not elaborate. But the King's trip to Syria came after an agreement between the Palestine

(Continued on page 10)

U.S. may shift stance on PLO, but not Palestine

Combined agency dispatches

WASHINGTON — U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher indicated Tuesday that the United States was reconsidering its refusal to hold talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"There is no chance at the present time. We had our concerns in the past but we will be following closely the situation as it evolves," Mr. Christopher told a small group of journalists.

Mr. Christopher reaffirmed U.S. opposition to establishment of a Palestinian state. He said statehood was not part of the accord Israel and the PLO have worked out.

"It does not take the step" while spelling out what is due to happen over the next five years, Mr. Christopher said.

Besides, he said, "The United States has never supported a Palestinian state."

On talking to the PLO, however, Mr. Christopher said, "obviously there are developments taking place that we are going to follow very carefully."

The Reagan administration in December 1988 dropped a ban on dealing with the PLO after PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat renounced "terrorism" and acknowledged Israel's existence.

The Bush administration resumed the prohibition in June 1990 after a raid on Tel Aviv beaches by elements of the PLO.

Israel, meanwhile, conducted dozens of meetings with Mr. Arafat's group, the last of which led to the agreement to establish Palestinian administration over Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho.

The State Department's office of counter-terrorism describes the PLO as an umbrella organisation some parts of which support "terrorism" while others do not.

The Israel-PLO agreement could lead to mutual recognition.

Mr. Christopher said the United States strongly supports the Israel-PLO agreement, calling it a "conceptual breakthrough."

"We strongly support the

PLO is 'dissolving'

Combined agency dispatches

TUNIS (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is "dissolving" and will turn into a provisional Palestinian government, a senior adviser to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat said Tuesday.

Mr. Sanaa, former U.S. President Jimmy Carter called for direct talks between the United States and the PLO.

"If the Israelis can talk directly to the PLO, why can't the U.S.?" Mr. Carter said in a press conference in the Yemeni capital.

The former president, who on Monday met Arafat, called for the United States to give a push to the peace process.

"All the parties present at the peace talks want to see the United States give some momentum" to the negotiations.

Mr. Carter, broker of the 1979 Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty, said Israel's agreement to grant autonomy starting in the Gaza Strip and Jericho was "a significant step."

He added, "because this organisation is only a bridge and not an end in itself."

"The bridge must now lead to a provisional Palestinian government," he said, adding that the deal struck between Israel and the PLO for autonomy in the Gaza Strip and Jericho would extend to the whole of the occupied territories.

"The government will have its seat in Jericho, will be led by Yasser Arafat himself, and will comprise figures from inside (the occupied territories) and outside," he said.

The provisional government would "prepare the infrastructure of a future Palestinian state," he said.

The group said that the progress shows that Israel recognises that it must make peace with the PLO.

The Anti-Defamation League said that Israel has again illustrated its strong commitment to reaching peace with its Palestinian neighbours.

The foreign ministry said its director-general, Uri Savir, was in Europe on government business. The Israeli daily Haaretz said he and PLO officials were hammering out an agreement on mutual recognition.

The Israeli government wants the PLO to recognise the Jewish state's right to exist, to renounce armed struggle and to drop calls for the destruction of Israel from the PLO charter.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Monday before the cabinet approved the autonomy accord: "We are very close to the moment when the PLO will erase the paragraphs from its charter which call for the destruction of Israel, will totally renounce terrorism and announce it is ready to negotiate with us."

signing it needs a month to approve it and directly after this month the implementation will begin," Mr. Arafat said.

He did not make clear who would have to approve it.

Mr. Mubarak, who called the deal "courageous and brave", said he telephoned Syrian President Hafez Al Assad during the meeting with Mr. Arafat. Mr. Mubarak and Mr. Arafat said they would meet Mr. Assad soon.

Speaking to reporters late on Monday, Mr. Arafat dismissed suggestions that Syria and Jordan opposed the agreement.

"This is completely incorrect that they are not happy with the accord," he said.

Mr. Arafat was asked about Israeli demands that the occupied territories would descend into civil war. Mr. Arafat said: "This is not what will happen. The Palestinian police will take charge of Palestinian security."

According to a draft of the agreement on interim autonomy, (see page 4), it comes into effect one month after signing, expected to take place at the Middle East peace talks resuming in Washington Tuesday.

Asked for his reaction to a threat from Palestinian guerrilla leader Ahmad Jibril that he could be killed over the self-rule accord, Mr. Arafat said: "Our forum is a democratic forum and we welcome any criticism."

"What is mentioned in the charter about armed struggle has been supers

Middle East News

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1990

Missile explodes at Iraqi test site; U.N. camera is destroyed

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — An explosion during an Iraqi missile test destroyed one of the cameras that U.N. experts had installed to make sure Baghdad was not developing long-range rockets, a U.N. official said Tuesday.

Monday's explosion occurred while U.N. experts were looking on, but caused no casualties, according to the official who requested anonymity. "One of the cameras disappeared. It was bad luck," he added.

United Nations experts earlier this month set up six cameras at Yawn Al Azim and Al Rafah, two missile testing sites south of Baghdad, following a week-long stand-off with Iraqi authorities.

The official did not say where the blast occurred.

The cameras were to be activated following talks on Iraqi disarmament which the United Nations and Iraq were to begin in New York Tuesday.

A three-member U.N. team that has been in Iraq since Wednesday was only 50 metres from the site of the explosion which occurred during "the test of a missile engine," the U.N. official said.

The team continued its mission despite the incident and visited one of the two sites earlier Tuesday.

On Monday, the television station owned by President Saddam Hussein's eldest son Uday broadcast pictures of the different stages of the test as well as the explosion — the first time Iraq viewers were able to watch a missile test.

Rabin's approach to peace is full of stunts and surprises

TEL AVIV (R) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said his government wouldn't talk to the PLO.

The U.N. team headed by Guy Martelli of the United States is charged with monitoring tests of missiles which have a range of less than 150 kilometres, as allowed under U.N. resolutions ending the 1991 Gulf war.

Iraqi officials said they had an overall estimate of damage or whether there were injuries in Monday's blast.

An official said the explosion led to a lot of damage in the missile test facility and destroyed one of the cameras...

U.N. talks open

Talks opened at the United Nations Tuesday on long-term monitoring of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

The talks are expected to continue until Sept. 9 and then resume in Baghdad at some future date, a U.N. official said.

The 15-member Iraqi team is led by General Amir Rasheed, director of Baghdad's Military Industrialisation Authority, who has cabinet rank.

Wolf Ekins, Executive chairman of the U.N. special commission responsible for scrapping Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, will head the U.N. negotiating group.

Arriving at U.N. headquarters for a preliminary meeting on Monday, Gen. Rasheed smiled and waved to reporters, saying: "We come with the full intention to resolve outstanding issues on monitoring and... other things. We come in good high spirits."

fended the meeting as a "contact" and not "negotiations." Any settlement, the spokesman said, would be ironed out only with Palestinians from the occupied territories at peace talks in Washington.

Within days he was proven wrong. On Aug. 20, Mr. Peres secretly met a PLO official in Norway.

On Monday Mr. Rabin told backers it was those understandings achieved in Oslo that clinched agreement on general principles for Palestinian self-rule in the occupied territories.

The agreement was reached not only in secret but without the involvement even of the official negotiators to the 22-month-old peace talks. Israel's chief peace negotiator Eyalim Rabinstein threatened to quit for being kept in the dark.

His actions so far have drawn a swift response in Israel.

Backers praise the 71-year-old soldier-turned-politician for bold leadership. Critics accuse him of breaking every important promise he ever made.

For years Israel banned talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation, branding it a "terrorist" group bent on destroying the Jewish state.

After Rabin came to power, Israel softened the ban, allowing private unofficial contacts with the Tunis-based organisation.

Official contacts remained off limits — until July.

Then in Cairo, Environment Minister Yossi Sarid, a darling of the Israeli left, met Nabil Shaath, an aide to Mr. Arafat, he did it with Mr. Rabin's approval.

Mr. Rabin's spokesman de-



Yitzhak Rabin
honest broker in world affairs with a particular interest in the Middle East.

Norway mediators helped break ice

OSLO (R) — The five Norwegians who secretly mediated between Israelis and Palestinians this year created a relaxed family atmosphere that helped break the ice between foes, officials said on Tuesday.

Foreign Minister Johan Joergen Holst said late Monday that Norway had hosted 14 secret meetings this year, some at his home and in a farmhouse, between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on a deal paving the way for Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"It gives a very special atmosphere when one meets two couples at home. I'm convinced that this had a very big and positive influence for the talks," Mr. Holst told the daily Verdens Gang on Tuesday.

Mr. Holst is married to Marianne Heiberg, a researcher at Norway's FAFO, the institute for applied social science, who took part in the talks.

Mr. Heiberg's boss at FAFO, Terje Roed-Larsen, is married to Mona Junt, a senior foreign ministry official — forming the other Norwegian couple taking part in the talks.

Mr. Holst said negotiations had often seemed close to collapse but were helped by close relationships built up between the Israeli and PLO participants — whom he refused to name.

An Israeli revenge bombardment of South Lebanon in July barely affected the tone of the talks, he told reporters.

FAFO ran a study of living conditions for Palestinians in the occupied territories from the late 1980s. The study helped build up Norway's contacts with the PLO and Israel and led to a request by both sides for secret talks in Norway.

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The only one of the five Norwegian insiders not married to another was Jan Egeland, state secretary at the foreign ministry. The negotiations met in secret locations around southern Norway from the start of the year.

Such "dynasties" are often criticised in Norway — a country with no aristocracy but where a tiny intellectual elite seems to have a disproportionate share of power.

But officials say family ties between prominent Norwegians may be inevitable in a nation of just 4.3 million people.

Foreign ministry spokesman Ingvar Havnen said the family ties between the Norwegian mediators in the peace talks was a happy coincidence.

The participants were chosen because of their special abilities and knowledge of the Mideast, "because they were related," he said. Norway has long seen itself as an honest broker in world affairs.

"We have tried to be cooperative with the policies that have been jointly developed," he said. "We have not been just simply driving this. We have really tried to work within the framework of the U.N. to prove that this thing can work over the long run."

In an interview published on Monday in the Paris-based African magazine Jeune Afrique, Mr. Carter criticised the policing role of U.S. troops in Somalia.

"The United States should be on the front line to solve Africa's problems," the former president said, suggesting that military force was not the answer.

"Lightening the continent's debt burden, launching health, education and democratisation programmes, solving conflicts are beautiful missions that the United States must imperatively tackle in the future," he said.

In another family twist, the wife of former Foreign Minister Thorvald Stoltenberg, Karin Stoltenberg, is the sister of Mr. Holst's wife.

Mr. Stoltenberg became U.N. peace mediator in former Yugoslavia from April, handing over as foreign minister to Mr. Holst.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Gunmen attack U.S. troop compound in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Gunmen raked a U.S. military compound with machine gun fire as soldiers slept, in the first such attack since a U.S.-led coalition liberated Kuwait in 1991, the Kuwaiti press reported Tuesday. The assailants sparked fires and broke windows but caused no casualties when they attacked the building southeast of Kuwait City at dawn Monday, newspapers said. Photographs showed walls riddled with bullet holes and other damage. The Kuwaiti Minister of Interior and the U.S. embassy refused to comment on the incident. Walt Clark, a U.S. soldier living in the building, told Al Aswaa newspaper that he had seen a bearded man in a car opposite the building who disappeared after the attack. Some 200 U.S. soldiers are based permanently in Kuwait where they take care of military equipment kept under a defence accord concluded after the emirate's liberation from Iraq occupation in February 1991.

Arson seen in blaze at Algerian oil firm

ALGIERS (AFP) — An overnight fire which destroyed part of the Algerian state oil company's piping factory near here was due to arson, security officials said on Tuesday. The blaze at Baraki burned down the administrative offices, a chemical storehouse and the company dining-hall. Another pre-dawn fire at Hilda 50 kilometres from the capital swept through a municipal depot and destroyed 17 coaches and three trucks. The security authorities also disclosed that on Sunday night arsonists razed a shoe factory. One of the night watchmen recounted how about 50 armed and masked men burst in and made the guards kneel against the walls with their hands in the air before setting fire to the plant. Security officials said that in separate attacks by armed gangs on Sunday, five civilians were killed, in villages near Algiers and in western regions.

Greece takes in 35 stranded Iraqis

ANKARA (R) — Greece has taken in 35 Iraqi asylum-seekers who were stranded at sea after Turkey refused to accept them, a Greek diplomat said Tuesday. "They went to Greece on Saturday night," the diplomat said. "They were on hunger strike and we couldn't just leave them in the middle of the sea." He said the Greek authorities would contact the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) about what to do with them. Greece deported the 35 Iraqis from the Aegean Sea island of Chios on Tuesday after rejecting their asylum requests and put them on board for Turkey, from where they were said to have come. Turkish coastguards refused to let the boat carrying the Iraqis into Turkish territorial waters.

Iran police seize Australian embassy liquor

CANBERRA (R) — Iranian police have seized a consignment of goods including 250 cases of alcohol from the Australian embassy in Tehran, the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs said Tuesday. A department spokesman said the consignment of imported beer, wine and spirits was being unloaded outside the embassy when it was seized. "We haven't been given any reason and we're discussing it with Iranian authorities," he said. The Resalat newspaper in Iran quoted Tehran police chief General Abdollah Oqabai on Monday as saying the alcohol had arrived in Iran via the Gulf port of Bandar Abbas. Alcoholic beverages are banned under Iran's Islamic law but most foreign embassies use diplomatic privilege to import liquor for their staff. "Iranian authorities are aware that it's a long-standing practice, but from time to time they do single out embassies," the spokesman said.

Switzerland recalls Ankara envoy

BERNE (R) — Switzerland said Tuesday it was recalling its ambassador and two other embassy employees from Ankara, in line with a demand from Turkey and only under protest. The two countries have been locked in a diplomatic row since June over the shooting of 29-year-old Kurdish demonstrator Semetkin Kurt outside Turkey's embassy in Berne. Turkey had demanded the recall of the Swiss diplomats last week in reprisal for Berne's demand for the lifting of the diplomatic immunity of the Turkish ambassador. "The federal council has decided to recall from Ankara the Swiss Ambassador Paul-Andre Ramseier and the two embassy staff members Heinrich Maurer and Jean-Pierre Baumeier," a Swiss foreign ministry statement said. But it added: "The federal council once more underlines its protest against Turkey's unjustified demand for the recall of the ambassador and the two embassy staff."

Libyan throws lifeline to Scottish miners

EDINBURGH (R) — Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi has thrown £1 million (\$7.5 million) lifeline to a Scottish miners' cooperative threatened with closure, local media reported Tuesday. Former Labour Member of Parliament Ron Brown said Libya agreed last week to invest the money to save Monktonhall colliery from closure. "They know in Scotland that there is a different attitude politically and they hope no doubt to win friends through their connections," Mr. Brown told the Scotsman newspaper. "They know workers should be partners and not wage earners." He said he had been to Tripoli, the Libyan capital, with Jackie Aitchison, chairman of the miners' cooperative. The deal would enable Libya to invest in the Monktonhall pit without taking control.

Iran police impose tough rules on weddings

TEHRAN (AFP) — Police have imposed tough regulations on weddings in the southern Iranian city of Shiraz in a bid to maintain Islamic standards, Salaran newspaper reported Monday. It said police in the ancient city had issued a statement banning a range of activities traditionally associated with wedding ceremonies in Iran. As part of the new measures, all printing houses have to submit a copy of wedding invitations and keep police informed of the peace talks was a happy coincidence.

The participants were chosen because of their special abilities and knowledge of the Mideast, "because they were related," he said. Norway has long seen itself as an honest broker in world affairs.

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Foreign ministry spokesman Ingvar Havnen said the family ties between the Norwegian mediators in the peace talks was a happy coincidence.

The participants were chosen because of their special abilities and knowledge of the Mideast, "because they were related," he said. Norway has long seen itself as an honest broker in world affairs.

In another family twist, the wife of former Foreign Minister Thorvald Stoltenberg, Karin Stoltenberg, is the sister of Mr. Holst's wife.

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Home News

Queen stresses specificity of rural women's needs

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor met today (Tuesday) at Al-Mawar Palace with a group of professionals and specialists representing various Jordanian institutions and United Nations organisations working in the field of women and rural development to discuss means of implementing the Geneva Declaration for the advancement of Rural Women in Jordan.

Queen Noor stressed the importance of dealing with women's issues and development priorities as part of the family and the community, while at the same time emphasising the specificity of rural women's needs and gender disparities.

During the meeting, Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) President, In'am Mufti briefed the group on the specific needs of Jordanian women.

An extensive discussion took place regarding the mechanism through which all involved institutions in Jordan can best coordinate and work together

to improve the quality of life of rural women.

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The third committee will study and propose options for plans of action regarding the empowerment of rural women.

Photo: M. A. Al-Saleh



HIS MAJESTY KING HUSSEIN Tuesday attended a graduation ceremony in which His Royal Highness Prince Hassan Ben Al Hussein and other youngsters were awarded for successfully completing a training course at one of army's special forces units. Accompanied by Her Majesty Queen Noor, King Hussein watched training exercise including physical fitness exercises, mountain climbing,

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Royal decree endorses Cabinet decision on postings

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Royal Decree was issued Tuesday endorsing several decisions taken by the Council of Ministers last week. According to the decree, the following changes are effective as of today Sept. 1, 1993: — Khalid Mahadeen, the director general of the Jordan News Agency, Petra, will become an advisor at the prime ministry, and retain the same rank and salary.

Mohammad Amin Sagar Al Haliq will become Director General of the Department of Press and Publications, succeeding Issam Jahloun, who was retired. — Abdullah Utoom, a senior official at Petra, has been promoted to Director General of the News Agency. — Mr. Mahadeen held the post of director general of the Ministry of Information Jordan News Agency for 13 months. Prior to his period at Petra, Mr. Mahadeen was Director of the Royal Court Press Office.

Prince Mohammad condoles Qatarnah family

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein, delegated the Amman Police Director to convey his condolences to the Qatarnah family on the death of Mufleh Al Qatarnah, father of Balqa Governor Eid Al Qatarnah.

Cabinet endorses SSC pension raise

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet Tuesday endorsed the recommendation made by the Social Security Corporation (SSC) to increase the minimum pension and the permanent disability allowance from JD 40 to JD 50 and is retroactive from July 1. SSC Director-General Mohammad Saleh Houani said that about 9,000 pensioners will benefit from this increase, in addition to any pensioner, whose salary is less than JD 50. The increase will be paid by the end of September.

Senate speaker meets with Australian envoy

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi Tuesday reviewed with the Australian ambassador in Amman bilateral relations and convened the International Parliamentary Union (IPU)'s 50th session on Sept. 12.

Bank grants JD 130m in loans

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cities and Villages Development Bank (CVDB) has granted JD 130 million in loans to finance various projects throughout the country, according to the Bank Director, Mohamad Khalil. Addressing a meeting of the Amman Rotary Club members, Dr. Khalil

said that since its establishment, the bank has contributed to the economic development of the country. He pointed out that 80 to 90 per cent of the urban and rural roads were constructed through loans to local contractors. He added that the average annual loans granted by the bank range between JD 7 million and 8 million. Referring to the bank finances, Dr. Khalil said the sources of the finances are internal and external, through loans from international financial institutions.

Human rights group to meet today

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Centre for Studies on Freedom, Democracy and Human Rights will meet today (Wednesday) to discuss a draft proposal prepared by a main committee.

Workshop on income-generating project opens

AMMAN (Petra) — A workshop designed to encourage women to create income-generating projects was opened at the Nuzha Community Centre which is run by the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund (QAF). The three-day workshop, organised in cooperation with voluntary organisations is being attended by 30 women representing various unions in the rural and urban regions of Jordan as well as representatives of QAF's Community Centres. The workshop's aim is to encourage women to increase their families' income as well as improve the national socio-economic development process in Jordan, said a QAF statement. The statement noted that the workshop was organised in response to increasing requests by women unions for information and training on launching and managing income-generating projects.

Investment, government policy are topics of seminar

AMMAN (J.T.) — A seminar entitled the Role of Jordan's Financial Policies in Encouraging Investments in the Country organised by the Jordanian Businessmen's Association (JBA) will be held Sept. 9 at the Amman Marriott Hotel. A statement Tuesday said that Minister of Finance Sami Gammie will address the seminar and outline the government's financial policy towards investments. The 300 JBA members who will attend the seminar represent the commercial, industrial, agricultural, banking, contractor, transport, tourism and insurance sectors, according to JBA statement. Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali was the guest of honour at the last JBA seminar held earlier in August which was attended by 500 JBA members.

Mr. Zainal also said that Gulf Air will continue to operate daily flights to the Gulf aboard modern Airbus A-320 aircraft.

Gulf Air opens 3 new routes

Gulf Air Regional Director Mohammad Abdul Rahman Zainal has announced the opening of three new routes to Jakarta, Zanzibar and Casablanca in a drive by Gulf Air to expand and develop its network and serve its passengers.

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The third committee will study and propose options for plans of action regarding the empowerment of rural women.

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Features

JPL in 1993

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1993 5

Illegal immigrants becoming target of violence as resentment grows

By Michael White
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Grudgingly accepted for decades as a source of cheap labour in the United States, undocumented immigrants have become the targets of a growing and sometimes violent backlash.

While politicians and editorial pages press ever harder for stricter immigration control along the porous Mexican border, violence against immigrants and their advocates appears on the rise.

"We've been averaging several hate crimes cases per month," said Roberto Martinez of the American Friends Service Committee, which documents immigrant abuse. "It's really accelerated to the point we can't even keep track of them anymore."

In a recent New York Times-CBS News poll, 61 per cent of Americans supported a cutback in legally admitted immigrants. The survey also found 68 per cent believed — incorrectly — that most recent immigrants have entered the United States illegally.

The backlash has been strongest in recession-battered California, where many feel the influx is straining already-strapped government services to the breaking point.

Immigration officials estimate 300,000 illegal immigrants enter the United States each year. California absorbs about half of all immigrants, legal and illegal, they say.



You do not have to be in a gang to be shot, says this 14-year-old Mexican

Some of the state's most powerful politicians, including Republican Gov. Pete Wilson and Democratic Sen. Dianne Feinstein, have joined a throng of citizen groups in demanding that the federal government take a tougher stand against undocumented immigration.

Mr. Wilson has gone even further, calling for an end to illegal aliens receiving welfare, health care and education — and,

state of \$2.3 billion in services each year.

Mr. Martinez and other advocates counter that legal and illegal immigrants alike contribute to the state's well-being by starting businesses and paying taxes, and are less likely to seek government help than home-grown residents.

Critics aren't placated, arguing that the tide of newcomers has crippled state and local governments.

"This is the greatest betrayal of the people in the history of the United States," said Gino Spencer, head of Voices of Citizens Together, a small group of anti-immigration activists.

"The way to save America's butt," he said, "is to stop this hemorrhaging of our social system."

In recent months:

— Vandals ransacked the San Francisco offices of the Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, covering the walls with anti-immigrant obscenities.

— A truckload of white teenagers shouted racial insults and then beat immigrant Alejandro Cuevas as he walked along a street in Escondido, Calif.

— Immigrant activist Irma Munoz, 20, was assaulted twice on successive nights in Davis, Calif. In one of the attacks, her assailants scrawled "illegal" and "wetback" on her arm and leg with a ball-point pen.

— A group of teens attacked undocumented immigrants at the border near San Diego.

For many migrants, such attacks have added an extra element of fear to the task of survival, which already is difficult enough.

"It turned my life upside down," she said. "But if anything good came out of this, it reaffirmed what I knew — standing up for what I believe in and letting people know of the realities of immigrants and dispelling the myths."

In Los Angeles County, attacks on Hispanics and Asians have increased as the recession has worsened, said Eugene Mornell,

executive director of the county's Human Relations Commission.

Reported attacks on Hispanics jumped from 67 in 1991 to 89 in 1992, the most recent years for which statistics are available.

Assaults on Asians, another community with large numbers of immigrants, increased more sharply, from 54 to 80.

Many more incidents go unreported because immigrants fear deportation if they complain to police, Mr. Mornell said.

In the political arena, those same factors resulted in a broad-

based campaign for tighter immigration controls. A dozen bills introduced in the California legislature would, among other things, deny some educational and welfare services to undocumented immigrants.

In Washington, Ms. Feinstein announced plans for a bill that would force all who cross the borders with Canada and Mexico to pay a \$1 fee. The proceeds, estimated at about \$450 million per year, would be used to hire additional officers and buy new equipment for the border patrol.



Maybe being rounded up by police, like this suspect illegal alien, is better than becoming the target of growing resentment in a country fed up with immigrants

Ten years later, Russians unsure how to remember KAL 007

By Larry Ryckman
The Associated Press

NEVELSK, Russia — The first Russian monument to the 269 people killed in Korean Air Lines Flight 007 was to have been finished by now.

But 10 years after the plane entered into Soviet airspace and a fighter jet shot it down, work has yet to begin.

Old tires, rusting cables and a stack of metal poles litter the memorial site, a roadside lot in this fishing village overlooking mud flats and the sea of Japan, 55 kilometres from the spot where the Boeing 747 slammed into the water.

The failure to memorialise such a tragic cold war event reflects the uncertainty here on remote Sakhalin Island, where many residents are only now starting to question the discredited Soviet version of what happened Sept. 1, 1983.

Was the attack a justified response to western provocation, a panicked overreaction or the final mistake in a tragic series that ended with the destruction of a Jumbo jet packed with passengers about to eat breakfast?

Kim Den Kit, a Sakhalin official who serves as a liaison with the island's ethnic Korean minority, insists the monument be built.

"It's not something only the families of the victims need," he said. "All our future generations need it to prevent such tragedies in the future."

U.S.-Soviet relations were plunged to a new low by the destruction of Flight 007. President Ronald Reagan denounced the Kremlin. The Soviet government said the civilian jetliner was on a spy mission, "used by American special services for their dirty aims."

Over the past year, President

Boris Yeltsin of Russia has released evidence that leaves little serious doubt about what happened high above Russia's Far East. Some of it is from the flight data recorders, or "black boxes," which the Soviet government had said were never recovered.

After the Jumbo jet left Anchorage, Alaska, for Seoul, South Korea, it veered hundreds of kilometres off course over the Bering Sea.

After straying for more than two hours over sensitive military bases on the Kamchatka Peninsula and Sea of Okhotsk, tracked by Soviet fighters, the plane flew over Sakhalin, a verdant island turned fortress. Authorities began to wonder what had happened.

"He killed a lot of people. Their ghosts are in his kitchen and in his garden, and he's trying to find a way to live with it," said Andrei Illesh, an editor of the newspaper *Izvestia* who wrote a book on the disaster.

Many Sakhalin Islanders share Mr. Osipovich's view of the flight's purpose, noting the apparent failure to find human remains.

Those who know the retired air force colonel say the experience ruined his life.

"I don't believe there were any passengers aboard," said Ivan Birukh, captain of the fishing trawler Uvarovsk, the first vessel to reach the crash site. Mr. Birukh said his crew found wreckage and personal belongings from the water, but no bodies.

"My first impression was that they just took some things from a store and put them in the water," Mr. Birukh told the Associated Press. "Things were very new. They still had labels in them."

Experts believe the jet hit the water with such force that it would be difficult to find any bodies intact, and that crabs and other sea life ate most of the remains.

Some people think Soviet sailors did retrieve bodies and secretly buried them in a mass grave on Sakhalin, then a closed military region. In early September, Russia will let victims' families excavate a remote site south of Nevelsk in hopes of clearing up the mystery.

Most of the dead were South Koreans and Japanese, but 61 Americans were aboard, including Rep. Larry McDonald of Georgia.

Mr. Osipovich radioed to his controllers: "The target is destroyed."

He returned to base a hero. Soon afterward, when authorities learned the identity of the myste-

rious intruder, he became simply a man who had followed orders.

Even now, Mr. Osipovich insists the Boeing was a ghost vessel on a spy mission and carried no passengers.

Those who know the retired air force colonel say the experience ruined his life.

The ICAO report concluded that Soviet authorities mistook the jetliner for a U.S. spy plane that had been in the region earlier and ordered the aircraft destroyed despite "some doubt about its identity." It also suggested the plane's crew "misused the navigation system and failed to detect the error while on automatic pilot."

"That's part of the tragedy of this. They never knew they were off course, they never knew there was a fighter outside, they didn't even know they had been shot down," said James Oberg, an American author and aerospace expert.

"There's no indication from the voice tapes that they ever had a clue that they'd been hit by a missile."

For Mr. Osipovich, Mr. Birukh and others on Sakhalin, the doubts remain. Some have reluctantly accepted the western version of events. For others, Flight 007 has simply slipped into history, along with the Soviet Union.

"Ten years have passed since then, and I don't feel like judging the past," said Yevgeny Krasnov, governor of the island.

Officials said they planned to erect a temporary marker for the Sept. 1 anniversary and would build the memorial later.

The permanent memorial's designer doubts it will be built.

"From my personal experience, I know that if they make something 'temporary' it will last forever," said Khan San Tzu, a local architect.

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China will not rule out use of force over Taiwan

PEKING (R) — China issued a major policy paper on Taiwan Tuesday, repeating its offer of peaceful unification but threatening again that Peking may use military force if necessary to take the island.

"Peaceful unification is a set policy of the Chinese government," the cabinet said in its "white paper" on Taiwan.

"However, any sovereign state is entitled to use any means it deems necessary, including military ones, to uphold its sovereignty and territorial integrity."

The white paper came as Peking and Taipei settled into the first round of ground-breaking talks on improving links long strained by cold war suspicions and bitter memories of China's civil war in the late 1940s.

Peking's communist rulers rejected any prospect of Taiwanese independence.

"The Chinese government is closely following the course of events and will never condone any manoeuvre for 'Taiwan independence,'" it said.

Chinese and Taiwanese negotiators met in Peking to start working out how to handle the explosive growth of economic, family and tourism ties as tensions eased in recent years.

The talks, carefully "unofficial" to circumvent Taipei's standing ban on official contact, represent the latest in a series of high-level

meetings unimaginable only five years ago.

The Chinese cabinet's paper, "The Taiwan Question And The Reunification Of China," is meant as a political framework for Peking's policies.

As with previous Chinese white papers on the questions of human rights and Tibet, diplomatic analysts looking for new Chinese initiatives were likely to be disappointed.

The paper again sets forth Peking's unequivocal claim to sovereignty over Taiwan, which has served as a base for the Nationalist Chinese government since Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek led his defeated forces there in 1949.

It accuses the United States government of causing the division and then working to prolong it, most recently in 1992 by agreeing to sell Taiwan 150 advanced F-16 jet fighters.

Under this arrangement, Taiwan's Nationalist government would be allowed almost free rein in running the island's internal affairs as long as it bows to Peking on diplomatic issues.

Peking has promised not to station administrative or military personnel on the island, while saying that certain Taiwanese leaders could be appointed to senior positions in the central government.

"It should be affirmed that the desire of Taiwan compatriots to run the affairs of the island as masters of their own house is justified and reasonable," the white paper said.

With agreements already in place to retake the British colony of Hong Kong in 1997 and the Portuguese enclave of Macao in 1999, Taiwan is now the only issue standing in the way of the Communists' pledge to unify the whole nation under their rule.

"For various reasons, Taiwan is still separated from the mainland," the paper said.

"Unless this state of affairs is brought to an end, the trauma on the Chinese nation will not be healed and the Chinese people's struggle for national reunification and territorial integrity will continue."

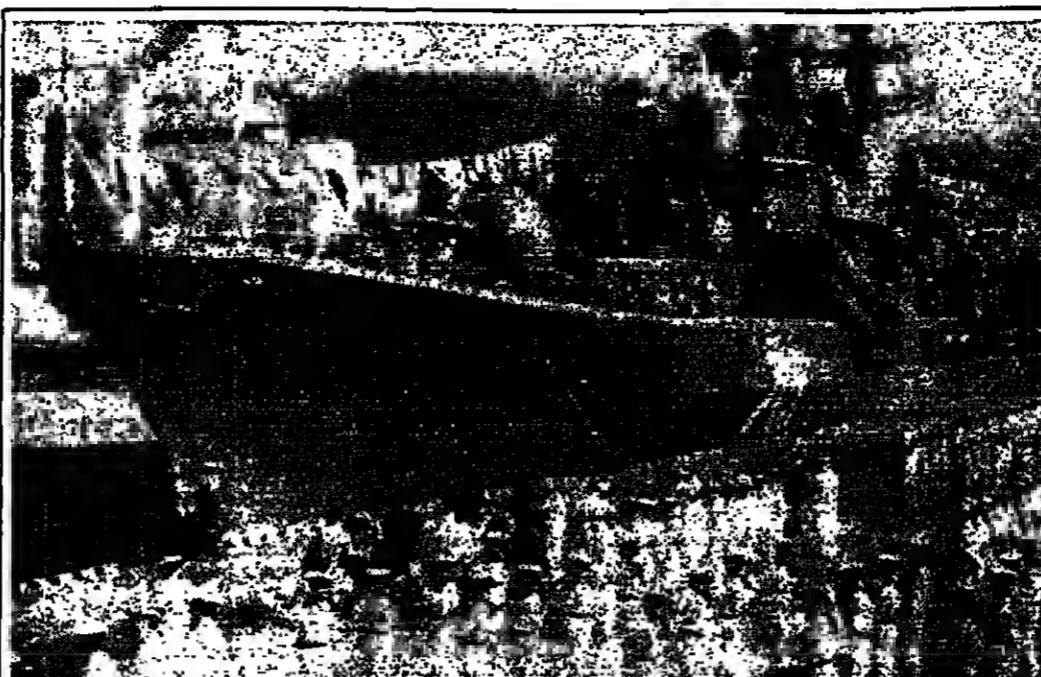
The paper restates China's formula for resolving the issue: the "one country, two systems" proposal that already forms the basis for Hong Kong's return to Chinese rule in 1997.

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RUSSIAN NAVY IN SEOUL: The Russian missile destroyer Rostov is welcomed by a South Korean Navy honour guard at the port of Pusan

Tuesday. Three vessels from the Russian Navy paid an historic first-time visit, with their commander expressing hope that the two countries would conduct naval exercises (AFP photo)

Angolan forces advance into Huambo province

LUANDA (R) — Angolan government forces bolstered by fresh recruits and more arms have advanced deep into Huambo province towards the rebel capital of the same name.

Mr. Aspin was expected to release the document Wednesday and discuss it in a speech Thursday at Georgetown University, officials said.

The plan is the result of months of internal administration debate on the proper mix of U.S. Armed Forces to meet what Mr. Aspin considers the four main threats to American national security after the demise of the Soviet Union.

Fighting was raging elsewhere in the central highlands.

A Reuter photographer in nearby Benguela province reported heavy fighting in recent days around the town of Bafumbo. The army had opened a new front there in its 250-kilometre push from the Atlantic coast towards the UNITA rebel headquarters.

The newspaper said five UNITA guerrillas died in fighting to reoccupy the village of Monte Belo last week and 20 more were killed in mop-up operations around Bocoio.

The reports could not be independently confirmed.

Diplomatic sources are sceptical about a claim in state-run media Monday that 2,000 UNITA men were killed in fighting in the area last week.

A book that has just come out may turn out to be the most controversial. If you believe pols, most people won't believe what it says.

It says there was no conspiracy to kill Kennedy. No Cuban connection. No Soviet intrigue. No CIA-FBI plot and military-industrial plot. No mob plot. No left-wing plot, no right-wing plot. No Lyndon Johnson scheme to seize the presidency.

Western diplomats say the government is under pressure to complete the operation before October, when the rains resume.

Government forces are in improved shape following a big recruitment drive and a fresh supply of arms but a speedy recapture of Huambo is far from guaranteed, the diplomats said.

"They may turn the corner. But they haven't turned the corner yet," one said.

The government has recaptured a string of towns from the rebels in Ganda, which is halfway towards Huambo City, and is trying to consolidate its positions.

Clinton briefed on plan for post-cold war defence

WASHINGTON (AP) — Defense Secretary Les Aspin has briefed President Bill Clinton on his plan for a post-cold war military establishment that is smaller and cheaper but keeps the "forward presence" of U.S. forces around the globe.

Mr. Aspin was expected to release the document Wednesday and discuss it in a speech Thursday at Georgetown University, officials said.

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The new, old truth about JFK

WASHINGTON (AP) — More than 2,000 books have been written about the assassination of John F. Kennedy, most saying he was the victim of some unexplained conspiracy.

But nothing is found does more than support the overall conclusion that the assassination was the crazy act of a crazy man.

About the more than 2,000 books he says have been written about the assassination, Mr. Posner says he didn't realise how vehemently others believe otherwise. He has been getting unfriendly calls from the assassination community. For the rest of his life, he's going to realise, he's going to the object of their scorn.

"I initially doubted that I would be able to convert those who hold on a conspiracy theory as though it was a religion," he said in an interview. "But I thought that if they read my book with an open mind they would at least put the case of Oswald acting alone back in the discussion."

Now: "I don't think I'll get that hearing. The initial response has been vehement and at times quite nasty. I am a greater fool than the pinches of the criminal."

Lawyer Gerald Posner, 39, the author of Case Closed says he's gone over all the old evidence

and found some new evidence — in his own computer analysis of the famous Zapruder film, for example.

But nothing is found does more than support the overall conclusion that the assassination was the crazy act of a crazy man.

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Case Closed: Lee Harvey Oswald And The Assassination Of JFK, is being published this week by Random House.

Hurricane intensifies; warnings extended in U.S.

MANTEO, North Carolina (R)

— Hurricane Emily churned through the gulf stream towards the fragile barrier islands of North Carolina Tuesday and hurricane warnings were extended as far north up the U.S. Atlantic coast as Delaware.

"The steering currents are changing. We expect the hurricane to turn more towards the north and eventually northeast. Where that turn takes place is very, very critical," said Max Mayfield of the National Hurricane Center in Coral Gables, Florida.

The hurricane center said Emily was packing maximum sustained winds of 100 mph (160 kph) and some additional strengthening was expected during the next 24 hours.

"Any tropical storm, especially a hurricane, has a great deal of damage potential and history has proven this too vividly," the center said in a statement urging people not to underestimate the possible dangers.

In an interview with CNN, Mr. Mayfield said hurricane warnings had been extended from Bogue Inlet, just south of North Carolina's Outer Banks Barrier Islands, northward to Cape Henlopen, Delaware, at the mouth of the Delaware Bay.

The first of the hurricane's outer rain bands began brushing the coast from North Carolina's Cape Hatteras northward, the National Weather Service reported.

Winds were expected to reach hurricane strength by the afternoon.

"All coastal residents should stay tuned for the latest advisory on the storm and remain alert," the center said.

Officials Monday ordered the evacuation of Dare County, which includes Cape Hatteras, and said 70,000 to 75,000 of the 100,000 people and businesses there had now left.

Top British clubs chase 5-year-old

MANCHESTER, England (AP) — Five-year-old football wonderkid Kane Jackson is being chased by 20 British clubs. One side has already offered his father Matthew £10,000 to clinch the boy's signature when he reaches 16, but the 26-year-old tiler turned them down. "We thought hard about it, but he's too young to be tied down and we don't want him manipulated," Matthew explained. Kane, who can only play in friendly matches because he is too young for league football, was spotted at the club as a coaching camp for seven year-olds last year.

British producer wins world scrabble match

NEW YORK (R) — A British television producer emerged victorious from the 1993 World Scrabble Championship Monday, clinching the title with the word "wet" to score 20 points. The producer, Mark Nyman, 26, defeated a Canadian rival five games to two in the third annual competition, which began in London in 1991.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Gunman kills 7 in Pakistan mosque

ISLAMABAD (R) — At least 34 people have been killed in two days of pre-election violence in Pakistan, including seven shot dead Tuesday while praying in a mosque on the anniversary of the birth of the Prophet Mohammad. An armed man burst into the small mosque in the ancient Raigari district of central Lahore and sprayed the congregation with automatic gunfire, killing seven people and injuring 15 as they knelt in prayer, police said. "If the worshippers had been standing perhaps there would have been more chance of survival," senior police superintendent Tariq Ahmad said by telephone from Lahore. The gunman entered the mosque as the congregation of about 30 were finishing regular



Tennis star Monica Seles (centre) makes her way through photographers assembled for her news conference at the U.S. Open (AFP photo)

Seles looks toward Australia

FLUSHING MEADOW (AFP) — Four months after she was stabbed by an obsessed tennis fan, Monica Seles is slowly making her way back to a normal state of mind, the tennis court and public life.

She met the press Monday on the first day of the U.S. Open tennis championships, and admitted it was difficult to watch another Grand Slam go underway without her.

Though she declined to suggest a definite timetable for her return she did say: "It would be hard to watch another Grand Slam go by."

That would point to the Australian Open in January, though she said she would not want to start with a slam.

"Australia would not be my first step. It would be just too tough. I need some match play," she said. "But I just hope I won't have to miss it."

"I miss the sport. I miss practising. I miss the adrenaline when you go in a stadium."

"We watched a little (on television). The first rounds it's OK, but when it gets to the semifinals and finals, it's hard."

"To me it's hard to understand that this happened and I'm missing these tournaments. It would be different if it was a (sports) injury and it came from me."

That feeling of helplessness is also at the root of Seles' frustration at her loss of the number one ranking.

After hiding away for several months Seles began speaking publicly again only last week, and one of the first things she did was criticise the Women's Tennis Association and her fellow

players for failing to protect her ranking.

Since her attacker's avowed aim was to incapacitate Seles, thereby giving the number one ranking to his idol, Steffi Graf, Seles feels he profited from his action.

"I just felt that this person's goal was to stab me. He came out as the person who got what he wanted. He achieved what he wanted to achieve," she said, the frustration sounding in her voice.

Graf, who easily won her first-round match on Monday, said it would have been unfair to protect Seles' ranking.

"You've got to understand, all of us have got to play all year long and struggle through injuries and tough matches," Graf said, though she admitted that Seles' case was different from a game-related injury.

Seles acknowledged that it would have been difficult to let her keep the ranking.

"Tennis has always been very competitive and I learned that lesson when I first got to be number one," she said. "That is like the key position to everybody."

To help her cope with her feelings immediately after the stabbing, Seles followed her doctors' advice and talked to a psychologist.

She has also talked to other stabbing victims about their experiences.

"But now I feel," she said, "that it is me that has to go through it because I am going to be the one that is going on the court and I have to come to grips with it."

U.S. Open Graf, Navratilova breeze through

FLUSHING MEADOW (AFP) — Stein Graf and Martina Navratilova, holding the citadel of women's tennis in the absence of Monica Seles, posted convincing victories Monday in the first round of the U.S. Open tennis championships.

Graf the No. 1, and third-seeded Navratilova turned the opening day into ladies' day as none of the men's top eight seeds saw action.

Graf's 6-3, 6-0 victory over American Robin White took just 42 minutes and looked almost casual.

Navratilova, 36, outfoxed 18-year-old Italian Gloria Pizzinini 6-0, 6-1, but said that, these days, none of her matches is casual.

"Well, it used to be different because I could just sort of build up and get ready for the second week, but now I can't guarantee myself that I will be in the second week unless I really just give it 100 per cent," she said.

The Czech-American number four U.S. Open victories among her 18 Grand Slam singles titles, but said her approach to them had changed with time.

"I used to be able to get away with sort of being there 75 to 80 per cent, just sort of gradually build up. Last year, I barely escaped for granted."

Though still only 24, Graf has also noticed changes since her first stint at No. 1, and her glorious 1988 when she capped a Grand Slam with Olympic gold.

She has won five tournaments since May, including the French Open and Wimbledon, but said it was harder now.

"I have a lot of tough matches, close matches, that could have lost this year," she said. "A few years back, things were a lot easier."

Meanwhile, off court, Seles was continuing to overshadow the women's singles despite her absence from the draw.

Seles held a press conference at the National Tennis Centre to discuss her recovery from a knife attack at a Hamburg Tournament April 30.

Though she has yet to start practising again, Seles is hopeful of returning to challenge the likes of Graf again.

The only top 10 men's seed in action Monday, ninth-seeded Czech Petr Korda, lost a bumpy-five-setter to unseeded South African Wayne Ferreira.

Korda threw away set points in the first and third sets, both of which Ferreira won in tie-breakers.

In a match in which neither player served well, Ferreira proved marginally less bad and won 7-6(7-2), 4-6, 7-6(9-7), 3-6, 6-2.

"I just couldn't serve today," said Korda. "I mean, my serve it just didn't work."

After the slow opening day,

schedule was packed with stars.

Top seed Jim Courier, No. 2 Pete Sampras and third seed Steffan Edberg, the two-time defending champion, were all to play first-round matches Tuesday.

So was Andre Agassi, seeded only 16th but heir apparent to the departed U.S. Open kings Jimmy Connors and John McEnroe.

Connors, 41, decided to skip the grueling fortnight while McEnroe will watch from the

broadcast booth.

Another home crowd favourite, seventh-seeded Jennifer Capriati, was to play her first round match Tuesday.

A couple of other women's seeds advanced Monday. Ninth-seeded German Anke Hindermann 6-2, 6-2, and No. 10 Magdalena Maleeva of Bulgaria defeated American Marianne Werdel 7-5, 6-4.

U.S. OPEN NOTEBOOK

NEW YORK (Agencies) — The U.S. Open, like a hotel or airline, is overbooked.

The U.S. Tennis Association was caught in a "clerical mix-up" Monday when it was discovered the 128-woman singles field contained 129 players.

The Women's Tennis Association said the problem concerned Beate Reinstadler of Austria and Maja Zivec-Skulj of Germany. Reinstadler was placed in the draw, with Zivec-Skulj overlooked despite a higher ranking on the cutoff dates for entries.

What to do? Simple

Stage an "extra preliminary round." So in the heat and humidity on one of the most remote courts at the National Tennis Centre, Reinstadler beat Zivec-Skulj 6-1, 6-4.

* Plain or seeded: The first day of the U.S. Open produced more stars than stars. As spectators ambled from court to court, the big question was: "Who's that?"

Of the 55 singles matches Monday, only seven involved seeds — No. 1 Steffi Graf, No. 3 Martina Navratilova, No. 4 Cochita Martinez, No. 9 Anke Huber and No. 10 Magdalena Maleeva among the women, and No. 9 Peter Korda and No. 14 Alexander Volkov among the men.

That means 25 seeds will be on the courts as the first round is completed Tuesday and Wednesday. They'll be spread from the show courts through the back alleys of the National Tennis Centre.

* Hamburg's legacy: The stabbing of Monica Seles more than four months ago in Hamburg, Germany has brought tighter security to the U.S. Open.

Players are escorted by security guards virtually everywhere within the complex, even on court. During matches, two guards sit behind the chair umpire, just in front of the stands. When players change ends, the guards come onto the court and face the stands, watching for any sinister moves.

"I haven't noticed a difference yet, but I have only been here today," said Martina Navratilova, a four-time champion.

* Human triumph: This was supposed to be the year when the Open went electronic, with the Tel System of beams and buzzers replacing the men and women judges on the show courts.

That plan was dropped last week, however, when officials said some brands of shoes were accidentally tripping the system.

Graf was among those who practiced with the Tel System and said she was happy with the decision to stay with people instead of machines.

"I am somebody who is not so much into electronics," she said. "And I prefer to have people sitting on your side because it is just part of tennis."

"Back to the drawing board for them," Navratilova said. "I think eventually it is a good idea, but they have to work out all the kinks."

* Early retirement: The first player to quit playing at this U.S. Open was South Africa's Grant Stafford. He was leading Amos Mansdorf of 6-2, 7-6, 2-6, 0-1, when he stopped because of a stomach virus.

* Martina Navratilova hopes to steer the women's tennis tour toward a higher quality schedule in her role as vice president of the Women's Tennis Association.

The 36-year-old player was elected Sunday night and was eager for the responsibility after staying away from it in the past.

"The players need to have a better reign on things and I selected myself, just to be a part of it," she said.

On tournament scheduling, she said, fewer events would mean higher quality fields, with top players meeting more often to generate interest among fans.

"You just don't have people playing each other and as a result, the Grand Slams get all the glory," she said.

Jordan's bodybuilding finals set for Thursday

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's 1993 bodybuilding competition will come to its final showdown Thursday when 27 finalists compete for the title at the Al Hasseb Youth City.

The championship, which will be attended by the president of the World Bodybuilding Federation, Ben Weider, will include a special appearance by Jordanian world champion Mustafa Hassamain.

Mr. Weider arrived in Amman Wednesday on a three-day visit during which he will meet officials representing the Ministry of Youth, the Jordan Olympic Committee, the Al Hasseb Youth City and the Jordan Bodybuilding Federation.

FIFA threatens to suspend France

ZURICH (AP) — France was threatened Tuesday with suspension from international soccer because of a growing bribery scandal.

Joao Havelange, president of world soccer's governing body, FIFA, slammed "procrastination" by French soccer authorities to investigating bribery allegations against Olympique Marseille, the European champions.

Havelange said France must decide whether the team is guilty by Sept. 23, otherwise FIFA's Executive Committee would intervene, and "if need be enforce the terms and conditions of Art. 42 of FIFA's statutes."

"This article stipulates that the Executive Committee may, in the

case of an emergency, suspend an association which would automatically incur suspension from international football activity," Havelange said in a letter to French Soccer Association President Jean Fourner-Fayard.

The European soccer authority UEFA, said it would meet Sept. 6 to decide what action to take.

The French association ignored an Aug. 30 deadline set by UEFA to name another club to replace Marseille in the European Champions Cup.

"The president of FIFA added that the impression was being given that those authorities responsible for France's football were not capable of reaching a decision," a FIFA statement said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cagliari sack coach after one match

ROME (R) — Italian first division team Cagliari sacked coach Gigi Radice Monday after just one match of the new season. Cagliari were trounced 5-2 by Atalanta Sunday and were also out of form in recent warm-up matches. A club spokesman said Bruno Giorgi, dismissed by Genoa last October, would replace Radice. Radice was appointed during the close season after previous incumbent Carlo Mezzane moved to Roma. His insistence on playing a zonal defence brought him into conflict with club president Massimo Cellino. Radice was sacked by Fiorentina last January after falling out with Mario and Vittorio Cecchi Gori, the cinema producer father-and-son double act who own the club.

World champions on gold trail

PARIS (AP) — Six athletes are still on course for a share of the golden four jackpot of 20kg of gold at Friday's Grand Prix meeting in Brussels. Brussels is the fourth meeting in the series and the winners from Oslo, Zurich and Berlin are Michael Johnson (USA) at 400m, Noureddine Morceli (Algeria) at 1,500m, Merlene Ottey (Jamaica) at 100m, Maria Mutola (Mozambique) at 800m, Sonia O'Sullivan (Ireland) at 3,000m and Trine Hattestad (Norway) in the women's javelin. With the exception of O'Sullivan, silver medalist in the 1,500m, all the others were crowned world champions at Stuttgart last week. If only one athlete finishes with a 100 per cent record, he is awarded the entire jackpot — that is 20kg of gold.

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ALIAN THEATRE

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CONCORD

Last Action Hero

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

America Shikabika

Arabic

Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 6:00, 8:15, 10:15

PLAZA

Adel Imam in

Wed Sayyed Al Shaghaf play (Arabic)

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30

PHILADELPHIA

Franky and Johnny

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Idea of Palestinian jail in Gaza brings predictions of violence

GAZA CITY, Occupied Gaza Strip (AP) — The garbage, sewage lakes and military checkpoints framing Gaza's main streets have yet to be swept away in anticipation of Yasser Arafat arriving with his autonomy plan. Civil war might come first.

Mr. Arafat's opponents have a strong base here rooted in the dire living conditions and decades of broken promises for better times ahead.

They want the autonomy plan to fail, warning of assassinations and bloodshed against the leaders who sell out the Palestinians. Whether they succeed depends largely on whether Middle East peace negotiators starting to hammer out the details in Washington Tuesday emerge with a plan that touches on the common dream for an eventual Palestinian state.

"If Arafat arrived tomorrow I am sure the people in Gaza and Jericho would celebrate. But the question is for how long — two months? Three months? Then what happens?" said Adnan Salim, a 32-year-old former Islamic Jihad activist who retired after being imprisoned.

By many accounts, that is when the bullets would start flying between Palestinians, if not sooner.

So far opponents have limited their attacks to leaflets and wall graffiti like one reading, "If you don't take the route of blood, you will never reach Palestine."

The Islamic group Hamas demanded a strike Tuesday to protest the negotiations, warning Gazans that members would "cut the throat" of anyone who dared even drive around the Gaza Strip.

Cars on the roads were stoned and a 20-year-old Arab man painting slogans against the agreement on a wall was shot dead in a confrontation with

underground Israeli troops, Arab reports said. The army spokesman's office said it was checking the report.

The staunchest opponents are from the Islamic Jihad organisation, whose diverse branches throughout the Arab World reject the Jewish state. The Egyptian group took responsibility for assassinating President Anwar Sadat after he signed a peace treaty with Israel.

Islamic Jihad issued a series of leaflets saying it would exert every effort to make the treaty fail. The leaflet distributed Tuesday called for the PLO leadership to resign or face a death sentence.

Members say Mr. Arafat is the leader who merits assassination, while joking that Sadat might deserve a state in Gaza's main square since his capitulation with the 1979 Camp David accords at least guaranteed the Palestinians autonomy after five years.

Palestinians have not hesitated to shoot other Palestinians dead when they were accused of collaboration — 750 alleged collaborators have been killed since the uprising started in December 1987.

To police the autonomy forces in Jordan, the men are drawn from the occupied territories, as well as Yemen and elsewhere. But no one is sure that if autonomy is implemented within six months as envisaged they will have the experience necessary to cope with the pressure-cooker violence of Gaza.

"Mr. Arafat will take us and put us in jail because we are against the peace," said Mr. Salim, the former Islamic Jihad activist.

Opponents describe the plan as a trap dreamed up by Israel and the United States to force the

Palestinians to castrate their own armed struggle, because the autonomy government would be responsible for suppressing attacks against Israeli targets.

"It opens the gates for pain and civil war that we reject," Nayef Hawatmeh, leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, said in a telephone interview from Damascus. "There will be Palestinians fighting Palestinians in Gaza and Jericho."

About 400 leaders of Hamas and Islamic Jihad were expelled from Israel last December and are stuck at the border with Lebanon. They are expected to start returning in September and have repeatedly argued for continuing to fight Israel.

Supporters in Gaza said the rank and file might reject directions to avoid inter-Palestinian violence.

So far Gaza's 800,000 residents — most packed into refugee camps where unemployment hovers around 75 percent — have yet to take to the streets either in celebration or anger over the plan.

Most everyone is confused about the details.

Palestinians want to bear that the agreement will give them control over the territories occupied since the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, including Jerusalem. They want to be able to choose their own government. They don't want the Israeli army to enter their lives.

"If these conditions are not included it won't be accepted. This rejection will threaten both the position of the PLO and its leaders," said Yunis Al Jaroh, an attorney and spokesman for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the second-most powerful group in the PLO.

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Israel soldiers check Palestinians in Gaza Tuesday morning after the Israeli government's decision to approve an agreement to grant Palestinians autonomy in the Gaza Strip and Jericho (AFP photo)

77 activists denounce plan, urge resistance

AMMAN (J.T.) — Seventy-seven Palestinian political activists have issued a statement denouncing the "Gaza-Jericho first" option and calling on their people to resist it with all legitimate means.

The group, headed by Ibrahim Bakr, former deputy chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), said the proposal, approved by Israel and the PLO was an acceptance of partitioning further the already-divided Palestinian lands and as such it poses new dangers to the cause."

"These dangers are represented by the complete silence over issues of Israeli settlements, Jerusalem and the applicability of the Geneva conventions to the occupied territories," the statement said.

"We found it imperative on us to directly address the Palestinian people bypassing the PLO Executive Committee because the autocratic behaviour of Yasser Arafat has reached the limits of total disregard of the resolutions of PLO institutions like the Palestine National Council," the statement said.

The Palestinian decisions are no longer taken by the Palestinian institutions, especially in serious matters, but by those who act as "pioneers" in selling out the rights of the Palestinian people like the rulers in Cairo who have been dictating to Yasser Arafat and some of his assistants to their views in total disregard to the resolutions of the PLO's in-

PLO planning self-rule army

By Suliman Al Khalidi

AMMAN — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has begun reorganising Palestine Liberation Army (PLA) units scattered throughout Arab countries to take over security after an Israeli withdrawal from Gaza, PLO official said Tuesday.

They said that under the plan, the existing PLA brigade in Jordan has begun to be retrained into the core of a unit to be known as the Palestine Central Security Force (PCSF).

The force would eventually include more than 17,000 members throughout the West Bank and Gaza, PLO sources said.

It would turn many of the 5,000 Palestinian guerrillas and soldiers in existing camps in Sudan, Yemen, Iraq and Libya into security men for the PCSF, effectively ending the PLO's three-decade-old guerrilla army.

Under the PLO-Israeli accord being negotiated, the Palestinians will take over most functions of the Israeli military government including internal security and policing after withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and West Bank of Jericho.

Another 4,500 to 5,000 fighters — mostly former Fatah guerrillas evicted from Lebanon — will be included in the force later, PLO sources said. Most of them are scattered throughout camps in Yemen, Libya, Sudan, Iraq and Algeria.

The PCSF will include at least 7,000 guerrillas who fought for the PLO but are not in camps.

King Hussein, who was accom-

King, Assad discuss coordination

(Continued from page 1)

was not the subject of coordination with the Arab parties in the Middle East peace talks, he said.

Jordanian officials said Jordan, which has extended to the Palestinians the umbrella of a joint delegation to the peace talks, was not consulted by the PLO and Jordan.

The proposal was not even submitted to the King for discussion prior to the PLO's announcement that there was such a deal," said a senior official.

"We are learning about the details about the agreement from media reports instead of the Palestinians themselves," he said.

Lebanon, meanwhile, lashed out at the PLO-Israeli agreement and said it was unclear and gave Palestinians little power.

"There are two problems with this plan: there is no horizon. What lies after Gaza-Jericho?..

and powers given to the Palestinians within self-rule inside Gaza and Jericho are not sufficient," Foreign Minister Farouk Bouchen told reporters in Beirut.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharra has also criticised the Palestinians for not informing the PLO held with Israeli officials in Europe outside the framework of the peace process.

"Anything that affects the West Bank will also affect Jordan," said another official. "As such, it was imperative that Jordan was consulted about the accord."

Political analysts said the lack of consultations with Jordan might even have negatively affected the Palestinian side in the negotiations that led to the accord.

"King Hussein, a statesman and head of state for 40 years, could have extended valuable political advice to the Palestinians," said a veteran analyst.

Asked what the agreement would mean for other issues at the 11th round of peace talks,

Mr. Bouez said Arab partners to the peace process needed to be assured that it was just a first step.

"We cannot be joyful over what has been agreed upon as long as we do not see that Gaza-Jericho is a stage in a specified and complete project and as long as we do not see that self-rule includes complete powers we wish for the Palestinian people."

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